Appointment of distributors for LPG in Changland and Seppa in Arunachal Pradesh

2175. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any official correspondence from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for appointment of LPG distributorship at Changlang and Seppa in Arunachal Pradesh to meet the long pending demand of the people of those backward areas; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons of delay to appoint such distributorship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Requests are received from time to time for setting up of LPG distributorship from different parts of the country, including Arunachal Pradesh. Subject to economic viability and product availability, LPG distributorships are opened at unrepresented district headquarters and places having population of 20,000 and above in a phased manner. The locations Changlang and Seppa have been identified for inclusion in the next LPG Marketing Plan.

Increasing demand of LPG

2176. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for LPG has become so tremendous that it is not possible to meet the same with the present pace of supply; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the alternatives Government have in mind to cope with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The potential demand of LPG has been considerably higher than the indigenous availability. However, the demand of existing LPG consumers is being met by and large in full. Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and augmenting supply through higher imports. In order to increase the availability of LPG *in the country in addition* to what is available through public sector oil companies, Government in February, 1993, has decided to allow the import and sale of LPG by private agencies.

Maintenance of price discipline in marketing of Petroleum products by private Companies

2177. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government introduced under a parallel marketing scheme, import by private entrepreneures of petroleum products and its marketing in the domestic market;

(b) the details of petroleum products allowed to be imported for marketing under the scheme;

(c) whether Government also stipulated in the said scheme any clause to maintain price discipline for the said petroleum products in the domestic market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d), Under the Parallel Marketing System, Government had allowed the private agencies to import and market kerosene, LPG and LSHS by using/setting up their own import facilities and distribution network. The products can be sold at market deter-